

# Verse watch

JEREMIAH 29:11

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- ▶ [11] For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.  
KJV
- ▶ For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.
- ▶ NKJV
- ▶ <sup>11</sup> For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.
- ▶ NIV

# Is it over-used?

- ▶ How is it used?
  - ▶ Used by Christians as a favourite go-to verse
  - ▶ Written on cards
  - ▶ Displayed on desktops
  - ▶ Quoted to make people feel better

# Has it been interpreted correctly?

- ▶ Look at the context of Jeremiah chapter 29
  - ▶ Written to the Israelites in exile
  - ▶ They have been carried off to Babylon
  - ▶ They are to serve a 70 year sentence before returning to Israel
- ▶ v[5] Build ye houses, and dwell in them; and plant gardens, and eat the fruit of them;...
  - ▶ Get used to it, this will take a while
- ▶ v [7] And seek the peace of the city whither I have caused you to be carried away captives, and pray unto the LORD for it: for in the peace thereof shall ye have peace.
  - ▶ Even though you are in adverse circumstances you will have peace.
  - ▶ These are words of encouragement to a nation that is in captivity

# What you should do

- ▶ [10] For thus saith the LORD, That after seventy years be accomplished at Babylon I will visit you, and perform my good word toward you, in causing you to return to this place.
- ▶ [11] For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.
- ▶ [12] Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you.  
[13] And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.  
[14] And I will be found of you, saith the LORD

# What is the message for us

ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me

I will hearken  
unto you

when ye shall search for me with all your  
heart

ye shall seek  
me, and find  
me

the thoughts that I  
think toward you

to give you an  
expected end  
of peace, and  
not evil

# God's promise to Israel can apply to us.

- ▶ God cares for us
- ▶ God has plans for us
- ▶ We must seek him with all our heart
- ▶ God will give us peace and not evil.